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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

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Assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The report, submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 70/108, contains an assessment of the assistance received by the Palestinian people and an assessment of needs still unmet, together with proposals for responding to them. It provides a description of efforts made by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Government of the State of Palestine, donors and civil society, to support the Palestinian population and institutions.

During the reporting period (April 2015-March 2016), negative trends on the ground persisted, resulting in a two-State solution becoming even more distant. The United Nations continued its efforts to respond to humanitarian and development challenges in the context of occupation, while focusing in particular on supporting the recovery and reconstruction of Gaza after the conflict with Israel in the middle of 2014.

The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan, requiring $571 million, outlines the programming to address urgent humanitarian needs throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. In addition, at the request of the Government of the State of Palestine, the United Nations, together with the European Union and the World Bank, prepared a detailed needs assessment and recovery framework for Gaza, to inform the recovery and reconstruction work, and estimated the effects of the escalation of hostilities in Gaza in 2014 at $1.4 billion in damages and $1.7 billion in economic losses.

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The Government continued to implement the Palestinian National Development Plan 2014-2016: State-building to Sovereignty. In support of those efforts, the United Nations continued to implement the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2014-2017. The financial resources required for the assistance provided through the Framework are some $2.15 billion.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 70/108, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its seventy-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution, containing an assessment of the assistance actually received by the Palestinian people and an assessment of the needs still unmet, with specific proposals for responding effectively to them. Also included is a summary of key political developments and challenges relevant to the reporting period, as the international community continued to work to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people, especially with regard to the recovery and reconstruction of the Gaza Strip, and to support the State-building efforts of the Government of the State of Palestine. The reporting period is from April 2015 to March 2016.

2. Information on the living and socioeconomic conditions of the Palestinian people is provided in several reports prepared by other United Nations agencies and submitted to various United Nations bodies, in particular: the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (to be issued); the annual report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (A/70/13); and the report of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee in September 2015.

3. The humanitarian, economic and development needs of the Palestinian people are reflected in several complementary strategic and resource mobilization documents. The 2016 Strategic Response Plan seeks $517 million to address the most urgent humanitarian needs, including by enhancing the protective environment and improving access to essential services for the most vulnerable groups throughout the occupied Palestinian territory. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2014-2017 presents the United Nations strategic response to the Palestinian development priorities contained in the Palestinian National Development Plan for 2014-2016: State-building to Sovereignty.

4. Throughout the year, the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process continued its efforts to support the peace process and to promote coordination among the Government of the State of Palestine, the United Nations, the international community and the Government of Israel. The Office also continued to document the economic and social conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory and to develop policies and programmes to improve them.

II. Overview of the current situation

A. Political context

5. The reporting period was characterized by continued negative trends on the ground, including ongoing settlement activity, high rates of demolitions of Palestinian structures and a lack of genuine Palestinian unity, all imperilling the viability of a two-State solution. The continued lack of a political horizon for a two-

State solution contributed to the growing frustration among Palestinians, especially young people, fuelling a wave of violence by mainly non-affiliated individuals that began in October 2015.

6. The United Nations continued to engage, including through the Quartet, with Israeli and Palestinian leaders and with key Arab States to explore avenues to preserve the two-State solution and create the conditions for a return to meaningful negotiations. In September 2015, the Quartet called upon the parties to take significant steps on the ground, consistent with prior agreements, to strengthen Palestinian institutions, security and economic prospects, while respecting Israeli security needs.

7. The new Israeli Government, headed by the Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, took office on 14 May 2015 and continued settlement activities in the occupied West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, albeit at a slower overall pace for settlement planning and tendering than in the previous reporting period. The beginning of 2016 witnessed a sharp increase in demolitions of Palestinian-owned structures by the Israeli authorities in the West Bank. Those actions had a particular impact on Palestinian Bedouin and herding communities in Area C. The Israeli authorities also reaffirmed their intention to complete the so-called legalization process of several settlement outposts and, on 10 March 2016, classified 2,340 dunums (578 acres) of land in the Jordan Valley as "State land".

8. On 31 July 2015, an arson attack by Jewish extremists in the village of Duma, in the occupied West Bank, killed three of the four members of the Dawabsheh family. Holding Israel "fully responsible", the Palestine Liberation Organization linked the attack to what it claimed was a decades-long Israeli policy of impunity towards settler attacks. The Government of Israel issued several indictments on 3 January 2016 and two Israelis were later convicted.

9. Against a backdrop of other drivers, tensions around holy sites in Jerusalem in September 2015 sparked an escalation of violence throughout the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel, beginning in October 2015. A series of stabbings, shootings and vehicle attacks by Palestinians against Israelis in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, claimed the lives of 30 Israelis and 136 Palestinians, many of the latter being reported as perpetrators. There was also an upsurge in clashes with Israeli forces beginning in October, with 59 Palestinians killed or later succumbing to wounds sustained. The pressure to suspend security coordination notwithstanding, the Israeli and Palestinian security forces continued to coordinate throughout the reporting period. The United Nations called for thorough investigations in cases in which there were serious questions regarding the appropriate use of force by the Israeli security forces, and repeatedly called for community, religious and political leaders on both sides to curb incitement to violence.

10. The United States of America facilitated understandings on 24 October 2015 between Israel and Jordan on upholding the status quo at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, which helped to ease tensions at that flashpoint site. Earlier, on 5 October, the Prime Minister of Israel had prohibited members of the Knesset and ministers from visiting the site in an effort to lower tensions. Nevertheless, renewed provocations by extremist elements on either side, in particular during religious holidays, cannot be ruled out and could reignite tensions. During the holy month of Ramadan, Israel lifted

age restrictions for access to the compound, which saw some 3 million visits by Muslim worshippers from the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem.

11. The ceasefire that brought an end to the hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza on 26 August 2014 held, but remained fragile. Demonstrations along the security fence between Gaza and Israel continued and incidents of cross-border shootings by the Israeli security forces increased in the second half of 2015. On 22 June 2015, the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1 released its report on the conflict of 2014, including recommendations aimed at promoting accountability by all sides.

12. The reconstruction process in Gaza continued, including the rebuilding of homes completely destroyed in the hostilities of 2014. To date, more than 100,000 people whose homes were partially damaged have gained access to material to repair them, while some 2,000 households have gained access to material to rebuild their fully demolished homes. More than 90 per cent of damaged and demolished schools and hospitals have been repaired. The United Nations continued to assert that the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism was a temporary arrangement and to call for a lifting of all closures of Gaza within the framework of Security Council resolution 1860 (2009).

13. On the recovery of the economy in Gaza, the provision of basic services and the reconstruction process continued to be constrained by Israeli closure policies, the slow disbursement of pledged funds and the persistent intra-Palestinian divide. The Government of national consensus formed in June 2014 remained unable to assume its governance and security functions in Gaza, including control over the crossings. Reconciliation discussions between Fatah and Hamas, in addition to other Palestinian factions, in July 2015 and most recently in March 2016, on forming a national unity Government and holding long-overdue elections, have yet to bear fruit.

14. The continued destruction of illegal tunnels from Gaza and the closure of the Rafah crossing, which was open for only 30 days during the reporting period, further aggravated the difficult humanitarian situation in the Strip. Those factors significantly increased the financial pressure on the de facto authorities in Gaza, who increased taxes, fuelling rare public anger, including demonstrations and protests. Adding to that pressure were challenges to the political authority of Hamas from Salafi-jihadist groups, resulting in occasional crackdowns and arrests.

B. Humanitarian and socioeconomic context

Economic and fiscal developments

15. The economic conditions were characterized by a subdued recovery from the conflict. Real gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 3.5 per cent over 2014 levels, driven by growth of 2.5 per cent in the West Bank and 6.8 per cent in Gaza. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics estimates that under a baseline scenario GDP will grow by about 3.8 per cent in 2016, while the International Monetary Fund projects 3.5 per cent. Such growth will be insufficient to significantly increase per capita income or reduce unemployment.

16. A high degree of political uncertainty, together with the withholding of clearance revenue by Israel in the earlier part of 2015, contributed to the muted growth. While the withheld revenue was released in the second quarter of 2015, the multiplier effect of delayed wage payments and public spending cuts dampened growth.

17. The unemployment rate declined slightly, but continued to remain alarmingly high. At the end of 2015, 25.8 per cent of the labour force was unemployed, compared with 26.5 per cent the year before. The gains were driven primarily by a decrease in the male unemployment rate in Gaza (from 23.8 to 22.3 per cent), while that for women increased (from 36.5 to 39.7 per cent). The unemployment rates continued to be significantly higher in Gaza (38.4 per cent) than in the West Bank (18.7 per cent).

Humanitarian developments

18. During the reporting period, 218 Palestinians, including 47 children, were killed in direct conflict incidents (the vast majority by Israeli security forces) throughout the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel, and more than 16,000, including 2,800 children, were injured. A total of 127 Palestinian suspected perpetrators, including 30 children, and 28 Israelis[1] were killed in the context of an increase in stabbing, ramming and shooting attacks and alleged attacks by Palestinians against Israeli civilians and members of the security forces, both in the West Bank and in Israel. In the West Bank, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs recorded the highest number of Palestinian casualties since 2005, when it began documenting incidents. In Gaza, 4 Palestinians, including 3 children, were reportedly killed and at least 11 injured in Israeli air strikes, conducted in retaliation for intermittent rocket fire by Palestinian militant groups towards Israel as the ceasefire remained fragile. A total of 23 Palestinians, including a child, were killed and another 1,437, including 137 children, were injured by Israeli forces in protests along the Gaza perimeter fence, mostly in October 2015.

19. The targeting of Israeli civilians by Palestinians and the possible use of excessive force by the Israeli security forces in response to the attacks, in addition to during protests and clashes, were among the protection concerns during the reporting period. Those concerns were compounded by the perceived lack of accountability and effective remedy for the loss of civilian life and property.

20. In the West Bank, there was an increase of 32.6 per cent in the number of Palestinian homes and livelihood-related structures destroyed, dismantled or confiscated by the Israeli authorities, compared with the previous 12 months (from 646 to 857), displacing 1,125 persons, half of them children. February 2016 stood out as having the highest number of structures demolished in a single month (237) since 2009, when the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs began systematically documenting demolitions. Of the structures affected during the reporting period, 31 were demolished or sealed on punitive grounds. That practice targeted the family homes of perpetrators, or alleged perpetrators, of attacks against Israelis.

[1] Including four Israelis killed in two incidents by two Israeli Arabs; the two perpetrators were also killed.

21. According to the Israel Prison Service, as at the end of January 2016, 402 children (398 boys and 4 girls) between 14 and 17 years of age were being held under Israeli military detention for alleged security violations. In 2015, an average of 219 children were held in Israeli military detention per month, an increase of 15 per cent compared with 2014 (188). The increase coincides with the rise in attacks by Palestinian young people against Israeli civilians that began in late September 2015. Between October and December 2015, the Israeli authorities placed six children from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in administrative detention. The practice had not been used against children from East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank since 2000 and 2011, respectively.

Movement, humanitarian access and operational space

22. The United Nations effectively engaged with the Government of Israel on humanitarian access to allow for the unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance. In Gaza, however, restrictions on land and sea access imposed by the Government of Israel remained in place.

23. Access to and movement of Palestinians between most Palestinian urban centres in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem, remained restricted. Movement restrictions in the West Bank were significantly tightened following the escalation of violence in October 2015, which involved the deployment of additional obstacles, such as checkpoints and roadblocks, by the Israeli security forces. This represented an increase of 20 per cent in such restrictions compared with the period before the most recent escalation of violence. While many of the additional obstacles have since been removed or eased, the continued restrictions on Palestinian access to land, social services and economic opportunities in East Jerusalem and Area C hinder development efforts, resulting in deteriorating living conditions and increased vulnerability.

24. At least 372 incidents of delayed or denied access by United Nations and non-governmental organization staff members were reported at Israeli checkpoints, affecting 986 staff. Around 98 of the incidents occurred as those staff members crossed the barrier on the Jerusalem periphery.

Barrier

25. The construction of the barrier continued in the north-west of the Bethlehem Governorate. The Office for the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory established pursuant to General Assembly resolution ES-10/17 continued its outreach and claim intake activities. More than 54,000 claims and 600,000 supporting documents have been collected. Claim intake activities in the Tubas, Jenin, Tulkarem, Qalqiliya, Salfit, Ramallah and Hebron governorates have been completed, while those in the Bethlehem and Jerusalem governorates are at an advanced stage.

III. United Nations response

26. Through the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan, the United Nations and its partners continued to coordinate and deliver humanitarian and protection assistance to 1.9 million vulnerable Palestinians, in particular in Gaza. The humanitarian strategy is aligned with United Nations development programming.

27. The United Nations implemented the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, a strategic planning framework that guides United Nations development programming for 2014-2017 and is aligned with the Palestinian National Development Plan for 2014-2016: State-building to Sovereignty. It places the Palestinian people at the centre of development programming with the aim of enhancing human security in a context of occupation.

A. Human and social development

28. The United Nations coordinated and delivered humanitarian assistance, including food assistance, to more than 1 million people, water and sanitation assistance to in excess of 1.5 million people and health and nutrition services to some 2.5 million people in the occupied Palestinian territory.

29. United Nations development programming focused on capacity development, infrastructure and the provision of direct assistance and basic services. The work is, as outlined in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, centred on six strategic areas: economic empowerment, livelihoods, decent work and food security; governance, rule of law, justice and human rights; education; health care; social protection; and urban development, natural resource management and infrastructure. The financial resources required for the assistance are estimated at $2.15 billion, of which $1.3 billion had been mobilized at the time of writing.

30. Below are illustrative examples of the assistance provided by the United Nations.

Education

31. UNRWA provided free primary education to some 300,000 children enrolled in 353 elementary and preparatory schools throughout Gaza and the West Bank. In Gaza, eight new UNRWA schools were built to address population growth and reduce the number of schools operating on double and triple shifts. Currently, 75.5 per cent of the schools there use such a system, resulting in refugee children having fewer opportunities to engage in recreational and creative pursuits.

32. In the West Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) improved access to education through the rehabilitation of 15 school units in two schools that benefited 736 pupils and a kindergarten that benefited 150 children with disabilities, as well as through the provision of a mobile education resource centre that benefited 1,436 pupils in marginalized communities. In Gaza, UNDP rehabilitated five private schools, two government schools, five training centres and three higher education institutes.

33. United Nations agencies continued to meet capacity-building needs in the areas of inclusive, child-friendly education and early childhood development. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization supported the inclusive education programme, which promotes a human rights-based approach to education. In Gaza, 12 head teachers and teachers from six UNRWA schools and 148 head teachers and teachers from all 96 UNRWA schools in the West Bank benefited from training on inclusive education. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) supported the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in the promotion of active learning teaching methodologies for teachers and supervisors, as well as in the

implementation of a non-violence policy through teacher training and the establishment of conflict resolution mechanisms in schools.

34. UNDP continued to implement the Al Fakhoora Dynamic Futures Programme, supporting 159 scholarships, bringing the total number of scholarships provided to students from Gaza to 604.

Health

35. UNRWA remained a major provider of health-care services, operating 43 health-care facilities, 24 primary health-care centres, six mobile clinics, a hospital and a non-communicable-disease referral centre in Gaza and the West Bank and employing more than 1,800 staff. Annually, an average of 33,086 Palestine refugees in Gaza and 28,351 Palestine refugees in the West Bank received assistance to meet hospital-care costs.

36. United Nations agencies continued to increase access to health by constructing, rehabilitating and equipping health-care facilities throughout Gaza and the West Bank. In Gaza, UNDP rehabilitated a major hospital centre and reconstructed a destroyed medical centre, which serves 70,000 people. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) equipped eight primary health-care centres and six maternity facilities in Gaza with supplies and equipment to ensure the high-quality provision of reproductive health services, reaching 4,881 women, including pregnant women, with reproductive health services in remote and marginalized areas in 12 communities. The World Health Organization (WHO) provided information technology equipment and support to improve the health information management systems in Gaza. In East Jerusalem, UNDP established the first specialized national neurology department at the Makassed Hospital and began to rehabilitate and expand the only national chemotherapy department, at the Augusta Victoria Hospital, while WHO supported improvements in six Palestinian hospitals.

37. WHO supported the Ministry of Health in improving service delivery at the primary health-care level through the implementation of a package of essential non-communicable-disease services in Gaza and the West Bank.

38. In the West Bank, WHO and UNRWA implemented a healthy camp initiative in the Shu'fat refugee camp, building the capacity of five community-based organizations to address and engage in advocacy with regard to environmental health and behavioural health challenges facing the women, children and youth residents.

39. UNICEF and partners reached more than 48.6 per cent of women in the postnatal period through a programme focused on the provision of neonatal health care, including home visits and new equipment for hospitals. UNICEF also continued to support the Ministry of Health to scale up the baby-friendly hospital initiative to encourage exclusive breastfeeding in an additional 10 hospitals, bringing the total number of baby-friendly hospitals to 15.

Water and sanitation

40. UNICEF continued to support the water and sanitation in schools programme, which created improved and sustainable access to safe water and sanitation for some 80,500 pupils by providing technical support to the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

41. In the West Bank, UNDP improved, constructed or rehabilitated 141 water cisterns and water networks and installed and rehabilitated water storage and distribution units. UNICEF also supported the rehabilitation and construction of water networks, improving access to safe water for 31,000 people.

Employment

42. United Nations agencies continued to support income-generating and self-employment opportunities for vulnerable Palestinians. UNDP supported 2,300 families in Gaza and the West Bank with income-generating and employment-generating activities in small and microenterprise development. The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), through 62 women's centres, focused on providing job opportunities in food processing and marketing. The programme directly benefited 773 women workers, while more than 43,400 women benefited indirectly from business training at the centres. A total of 41 of the centres have reached financial sustainability. The activity also benefited 335 schools and more than 108,000 schoolchildren, who received healthy and affordable snacks made by women from the community-based centres. UN-Women also supported 45 women-owned or women-run small, medium-sized and microenterprises through specialized capacity-building as part of a continuous support cycle to integrate women into the local, regional and international markets and ensure their transition from the informal sector to the formal sector. That support benefited 502 workers and family supporters, 93.4 per cent of whom were women. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported 27 cooperatives, including 6 women's cooperatives, through activities aimed at increasing productivity and access to local and international markets, thereby helping 1,318 people to achieve improved economic conditions through training to strengthen the production and marketability of their products. FAO, UN-Women and the International Trade Centre, through a joint programme, established a full-service hub to provide guidance to women-owned or women-run small, medium-sized and microenterprises and cooperatives throughout the business development cycle, from capacity-building to enhancing their sales in the local, regional and international markets.

43. The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched a Gaza recovery programme to support those communities most affected by the conflict, including vulnerable families and individuals having lost productive assets or income sources. In partnership with the Gaza Chamber of Commerce, ILO provided 50 small, medium-sized and microenterprise carpenters with small grants, at a total value of $90,000, for asset replacement services, coupled with a paid three-month job placement scheme for carpenters. It also supported the fishers' union with improved curricula, training on technical skills, job placements, capacity-building on occupational safety and health and direct support to fishers. Moreover, in partnership with local non-governmental organizations, 50 women sheep breeders were trained in the management of sheep farms, life skills, financial and marketing literacy, and cooperative and business group formation.

44. In cooperation with the Islamic University of Gaza, ILO supported the introduction of apprenticeships, the development and improvement of curricula and the development of technical and business management skills for students, including women architects and persons with disabilities. Its work will enable graduates to

meet the needs of the private sector in the reconstruction process and develop livelihoods in agriculture and craftwork.

45. In the West Bank, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in partnership with the municipality of Hebron and the Ministry of Social Affairs, finalized the establishment of a technical and vocational training centre to empower 100 underprivileged women and their families and improve their living standards through the provision of vocational training, urban entrepreneurship development and economic training programmes and initiatives.

Targeted social protection

46. In Gaza, UNRWA distributed 393,664 food parcels to 20,453 Palestine refugee households through the social safety net programme. It also distributed 144,518 food parcels and $1.4 million in supplementary cash assistance to 8,388 Palestine refugee households in the West Bank. The World Food Programme (WFP) supported the social safety net programme, through which it provided more than 195,000 people with food and cash-based transfers.

Culture

47. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization supported the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in Gaza and the West Bank through the rehabilitation of 10 historic sites that facilitated accessibility to cultural heritage assets, contributed to the socioeconomic development of targeted communities and helped to develop the technical capacity of local architects, engineers and young professionals in the field of cultural heritage preservation.

48. UNDP supported the cultural tourism industry through the upgrading of the Khan al-Wakalah historical compound in Nablus, which serves as a model for advancing public-private partnerships in the tourism industry at the national level.

Food security and agriculture

49. FAO improved water availability and management to enhance agricultural production. More than 1,215 farmers benefited from improved access to and management of water through the rehabilitation and enhancement of wells and irrigation systems and the introduction of improved water demand management practices. Consequently, 4,860 dunums of land are now irrigated efficiently.

50. Through the agriculture sector revitalization activities of FAO, 1,318 farmers benefited from intensive training on pest management and global good agricultural practices certification. In addition, 283 members of six women's cooperatives were trained in agricultural production techniques. FAO also supported 317 households to construct small-scale home-based food production units, including vegetable and animal units, providing them with an immediate source of food and a diversified income.

51. In the West Bank, UNDP increased the number of agricultural holdings through the reclamation of at least 1,775 dunums of agricultural land and the construction and rehabilitation of agricultural roads and service roads.

Human rights, women, children and young people

52. Through the UNDP and UN-Women joint rule of law programme, 24,891 individuals, 51 per cent of whom were women, in Gaza and the West Bank benefited from free legal aid provided by civil society organizations. In addition, specialized legal aid services were provided to juveniles in 657 cases through support to the Legal Unit of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

53. United Nations agencies continued to support the special needs of women by tackling gender-based violence. UNFPA focused on the integration of gender-based violence services into the national health system. Through that support, 800 health providers were trained and gained new knowledge and skills with regard to the detection, treatment and referral of gender-based violence cases and became able to respond to cases in primary health-care centres and emergency rooms. More than 3,200 survivors were referred to and provided with legal and psychosocial services by United Nations agencies and partners in Gaza and the West Bank. UNFPA also established a women-friendly safe space in the Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza, where vulnerable women benefit from access to services. UNRWA and UN-Women led wide-reaching activities in Gaza and the West Bank to raise awareness of gender-based violence. UN-Women also provided capacity-building for the 15 special public prosecutors specialized in prosecuting violence against women.

54. United Nations agencies supported youth empowerment programmes, equipping young people with entrepreneurial and civic engagement skills, reaching more than 6,000 people throughout Gaza and the West Bank. UNICEF worked with the Higher Council for Youth and Sports to build the capacity of teachers and trainers to implement skills development programmes for young people.

55. In response to the escalation in violence throughout the West Bank in the fourth quarter of 2015, UNRWA increased programme interventions to mitigate the effects of the current situation on children. Its initiatives included recreational activities, group and individual counselling reaching more than 50,000 pupils and sessions for 400 parents on preventing risky behaviour.

56. UNICEF led the inter-agency working group for the monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009). The working group continued to document grave violations and informed programmatic action and advocacy.

Environment, housing and urban development

57. UN-Habitat concluded the implementation of two spatial planning programmes in Area C of the West Bank, including the preparation of 34 detailed local outline plans aimed at reducing the displacement pressure on more than 35,000 Palestinians. It also provided urban planning support to Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem with the aim of securing specific development and building opportunities and rights in order to facilitate the immediate improvement of living conditions and ease displacement pressure. The programme helped to freeze demolition orders for more than 750 buildings and provided new public space in the Sur Bahir neighbourhood.

58. In the West Bank, UNDP completed nine road infrastructure projects, contributing to improved living conditions for at least 40,000 Palestinians, and

created access to electricity for 979 families through the provision of solar units. In addition, it rehabilitated more than 250 homes and supported housing cooperatives, providing increased access to proper and affordable housing for at least 360 families in East Jerusalem. In the Old City of Jerusalem, UNDP rehabilitated more than 17 business centres, improving the economic situation of some 20 families. UN-Habitat finalized the provision of 100 suitable housing units to poor women-headed households and their families in Hebron, including the transfer of title deeds. UNDP continued to advance the construction of the Jericho Agro-Industrial Park through the provision of essential infrastructure services, including water, electricity, buildings and structures, industrial services and telecommunications.

B. United Nations system emergency assistance

59. The United Nations and its partners continued to coordinate and deliver humanitarian assistance in the areas of protection, shelter, food security, water and sanitation, health and nutrition and education, reaching some 1.5 million of the 1.6 million vulnerable Palestinians targeted for assistance in 2015. The majority of the needs were in Gaza and included a significant portion of the residual needs from the conflict of 2014, in particular for shelter. The 2015 Strategic Response Plan mobilized $416 million of the $705 million sought (59 per cent).

60. The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan is seeking $571 million, of which about 65 per cent of the requirements are for Gaza. That amount is nearly 20 per cent less than the amount requested in 2015, primarily owing to a reduction in shelter needs as the pace of reconstruction increased. The Plan includes $304 million for the UNRWA Emergency Appeal.

61. The increasing pace of reconstruction notwithstanding, shelter continued to be the primary need, with some 75,000 persons remaining displaced as a result of the damage and destruction of housing stemming from the conflict. As at the end of March 2016, 3,500 of the 18,000 displaced families (19 per cent) had been able to return to homes that had been reconstructed or repaired as a result of cash assistance from United Nations agencies or other international support. The repair and reconstruction of an additional 3,600 homes, or 20 per cent of the caseload, are under way, with many of the homes nearing completion. Funding has been confirmed for some 5,000 families (27 per cent of the caseload) to repair or reconstruct their homes in 2016, leaving a funding gap for nearly 6,000 families (about one third of the caseload).

62. The United Nations Mine Action Service cleared 29 of the 128 sites where it was suspected that aircraft bombs were highly likely to be buried, in order to allow for safe reconstruction to begin.

Emergency food support

63. In Gaza, UNRWA distributed 573,398 food parcels to 146,357 refugee families (more than 800,000 individuals). WFP provided 71,145 food-insecure non-refugees with cash-based transfers and 284,864 non-refugees with in-kind food parcels. Jointly, WFP and UNRWA provided up to 4,800 internally displaced people in shelters until June 2015 with ready-to-eat food assistance. UNICEF and WFP built upon a successful joint e-voucher programme launched after the conflict to continue

to provide emergency food, water, sanitation, hygiene and school uniforms to displaced and other vulnerable families.

64. In the West Bank, WFP assisted 244,000 vulnerable and food-insecure individuals, 105,000 of whom through cash-based transfers and 139,000 through in-kind food distributions. UNRWA and WFP continued their joint in-kind food assistance programme, supporting 34,000 marginalized Bedouin and herders. UNRWA provided cash-based transfers to 47,000 refugees using the WFP voucher platform, for a total value of $4.2 million, spent on fresh food and other staples in local shops.

Emergency income generation

65. In Gaza, the UNRWA job creation programme provided 8,281 jobs, while more than 6,800 direct and indirect jobs were created through UNRWA construction projects. In the West Bank, UNRWA provided emergency cash-for-work support to some 7,000 households (42,120 individuals) in 19 Palestine refugee camps. This provided a cash injection of some $7.6 million to food-insecure households. Owing to a shortage of funds, UNRWA has since 2014 no longer been operating the cash-for-work programme outside the camps, but continues to support non-camp refugees with electronic food vouchers.

66. UNDP continued to support emergency income-generating activities in Gaza, including solid waste primary collection services, which benefited 4,000 workers supporting 20,800 dependants.

Emergency health support

67. Through UNFPA support, 12,676 women were provided with psychosocial support in Gaza and the West Bank. To respond to the psychosocial impact of the conflict in Gaza, UNRWA supported individual counselling sessions, benefiting 13,581 Palestine refugees, and 9,463 group counselling sessions. UNICEF and its implementing partners were able to reach 85,881 children (42,725 girls and 43,156 boys) with psychosocial support, including through individual and group counselling, in Gaza. In the West Bank, the UNRWA emergency health programme supported six mobile health clinics operating in 56 locations with poor access to primary health care. The clinics served some 22,000 individuals and delivered close to 87,400 patient consultations throughout the year. In addition, UNRWA supported 49 Bedouin and herder communities in Area C through mobile community mental health services, providing some 10,500 individuals with monthly access to psychosocial and mental health support. The initiative included vulnerable communities located in military zones, those in close proximity to settlements and those threatened with demolition.

68. WHO procured emergency medical supplies to address shortages, improve service delivery and strengthen emergency preparedness in Gaza. It responded to a seasonal influenza outbreak by mobilizing antiviral treatment and laboratory supplies needed for diagnostic testing. WHO conducted training workshops on emergency risk communication for 30 health workers engaged in school health, community health, health services, environmental health and media communications, as well as providing specialized training on the management of severe acute respiratory infections for 47 front-line clinicians working in intensive care units and emergency rooms of public hospitals.

Emergency water and sanitation support

69. In Gaza, UNICEF supported the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility to conduct repairs and upgrade water and wastewater networks, pumping stations and water wells, in addition to improving water storage capacity through the distribution of drinking and domestic water storage tanks. Through its partners, UNICEF delivered safe drinking water to 73,030 people using tankers. It also continued to improve access to water by supporting the Palestinian Water Authority and the Utility in the construction of a seawater desalination plant in southern Gaza, which is expected to serve 75,000 people.

70. UNRWA supported water and sanitation and health-care providers operating inside and outside the Palestine refugee camps in Gaza with fuel and other supplies to ensure the functioning of wastewater and solid waste management and to reduce the risk of UNRWA water wells being affected by power outages. In addition, UNRWA repaired two water and sanitation installations.

Emergency agriculture support

71. FAO responded to outbreaks of avian influenza by providing in-kind support to the Ministry of Agriculture in Gaza and the West Bank to assess the gaps, obstacles and opportunities with regard to developing national preparedness efforts for future outbreaks.

72. FAO continued to restore access to assets and resources for 4,620 households through the rehabilitation of six wells and 12 damaged greenhouses in Gaza, the distribution of organic fertilizer for 13,000 dunums of land in the West Bank and the repair of 706 animal shelters in Gaza and the West Bank. It improved access to livelihood assets and resources for more than 8,300 farmers, herders and rural households through the rehabilitation and improvement of cisterns for livestock and farming use.

Emergency education support

73. UNICEF, through its partners, supported safe and protected access to children in violence flashpoints such as Hebron, East Jerusalem and Nablus.

74. The United Nations Mine Action Service, UNICEF and UNRWA, along with community-based organizations, worked to ensure that risk education regarding explosive remnants of war was institutionalized in schools throughout Gaza. The Service and UNRWA trained 941 teachers to deliver that risk education. The Service also provided direct risk education to 22,500 beneficiaries.

Emergency housing support

75. In Gaza, the United Nations Mine Action Service conducted 602 risk assessments and properly disposed of more than 235 items of suspected explosive ordnance, enabling UNDP to clear 1 million tons of rubble without any incidents, even though operations were conducted in heavily contaminated areas.

76. The United Nations Office for Project Services continued to operate a materials monitoring unit, in close coordination with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, to enable the implementation of the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism. It facilitated the entry of

more than 1 million tons of construction materials into Gaza. To date, 450 large-scale construction projects have benefited from the use of those materials and more than 100,000 individual beneficiaries have been able to purchase materials to repair their damaged homes.

77. In Gaza, UNRWA disbursed more than $140.6 million, allowing 80,000 families to repair or reconstruct their homes. As part of that assistance package, it distributed monthly transitional shelter cash assistance to close to 9,000 Palestine refugee families whose shelters had been rendered uninhabitable. UNDP also provided $6 million in cash assistance to nearly 4,000 non-refugee families displaced by the conflict, allowing them to have access to temporary shelter while their homes were being reconstructed. UNDP supported the rehabilitation of in excess of 1,200 partially damaged homes housing some 7,200 Palestinians. In the West Bank, UNRWA provided cash assistance to 73 refugee families (some 395 individuals) following home demolitions by the Israeli authorities. It also provided 824 refugee families with cash assistance and referrals following search-and-arrest operations by Israeli security forces, which often led to physical damage to their homes.

C. United Nations system support to Palestinian institutions

78. The United Nations country team established a Gaza reconstruction and recovery coordination group in order to strengthen the coordination of United Nations and non-governmental organization reconstruction and recovery activities and to support the government-led Gaza reconstruction team in the implementation of the detailed needs assessment and recovery framework for Gaza.

79. In Gaza, UN-Habitat supported the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the municipality of Khuza'ah to review and develop new detailed outline plans for two heavily damaged neighbourhoods and an overall revised master plan in an integrated, participatory manner that included accommodation of key infrastructure, public space, future demographic growth, environmental sustainability and other innovative planning concepts.

80. UNDP and UN-Women provided support to justice and security institutions, including the Ministry of Justice and the High Judicial Council, in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and planning processes, including in the area of law-making. As part of joint programme efforts to develop specialized justice and security services for women and girls, 19 senior officers of the Palestinian Civil Police concluded an accredited professional diploma course in public administration and gender delivered by Birzeit University.

81. WFP supported the Civil Defence in building capacity in the area of emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction, focusing on information management systems and coordination in emergencies. WFP delivered tools, technical training sessions and simulations on emergency information management to increase the Government's capacity to anticipate and respond to external shocks. Cooperation also included the development of a public awareness tool and an early warning system and the establishment of three emergency operation centres at the governorate level to expand the ability of the Civil Defence to coordinate and respond to large-scale natural disasters.

82. The United Nations Office for Project Services initiated a three-year programme to build the capacity of the Ministry of the Interior in civilian oversight of the State security functions. The Ministry and the 17 Palestinian security entities have re-engineered key processes to reinforce the governance of the Ministry with regard to legal services, strategic planning, human resources, complaints processing and media and public relations. All the re-engineered processes are now linked to civilian oversight mechanisms.

83. UNFPA strengthened the capacity of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in the preparations for the 2017 population census. With UNICEF support, the Central Bureau successfully launched and completed the fifth round of the multiple indicator cluster survey, in time for final reporting on the Millennium Development Goals.

84. ILO supported the establishment of the first social security system for private sector workers and their family members, together with a new social security law based on international labour standards and best practice. The law was endorsed by the Cabinet and thereafter signed by the President, Mahmoud Abbas.

85. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, working with other United Nations agencies, provided technical assistance and training to the Government to implement, monitor and report on the seven core international human rights treaties acceded to in 2014. Its support included a series of thematic workshops on reporting guidelines and technical guidance on workplans for responsible line ministries.

D. Private sector development

86. In Gaza, UNRWA financed 3,678 loans, valued at nearly $5.5 million, to Palestinian businesses and households in 2015. A total of 3,221 loans, valued at nearly $5 million, were provided to Palestine refugees, while 1,490 loans, valued at $1.5 million, were extended to women. In the West Bank, 11,888 loans, valued at $15.6 million, were financed, with Palestine refugees receiving 23 per cent of them ($3.5 million). Women received 38 per cent of the loans (4,454 loans, valued at $4.8 million), and young people between 18 and 30 years of age received 40 per cent (4,725 loans, valued at $5.7 million).

E. Coordination of United Nations assistance

87. Under the auspices of the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process/United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, collaboration and coordination between the numerous donor and United Nations forums were strengthened. The humanitarian country team met regularly to agree on humanitarian advocacy and response measures. With the support of the Coordination Unit within the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, the United Nations country team continued to coordinate its United Nations Development Action Framework programming, in alignment with the priorities of the Palestinian National Development Plan for 2014-2016: State-building to Sovereignty. Efforts to forge constructive partnerships between the United Nations, the Government and the broader aid community were strengthened. The United Nations continued the preparation of regular Ad Hoc

Liaison Committee reports, strategies and guidance for development and humanitarian work in Gaza, East Jerusalem and Area C and, together with other humanitarian actors, the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan.

IV. Donor response to the crisis

Budgetary and fiscal support

88. The fiscal position of the Government remained fragile. The Government improved its fiscal performance on the revenue and expenditure sides during the year, reducing its recurrent fiscal deficit from 12.5 per cent of GDP in 2014 to an estimated 11.7 per cent in 2015. Direct budget support by donors declined, however, leaving a large financing gap and increasing public debt. According to the International Monetary Fund, direct donor support fell by about a third in 2015 and reached its lowest nominal level since 2008, leaving the Government's budget in an increasingly precarious position.

Donor coordination

89. The Coordination Unit within the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process supported the United Nations system and prepared substantive contributions for various forums, such as the twice-yearly meetings of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee. The Unit also coordinated policy positions and addressed impediments to the implementation of programmes with key donors and outside actors.

90. United Nations agencies continued to support the Government in the development of a national policy agenda for the period 2017-2022, which would outline development priorities and be complemented by sector strategies.

91. The local aid coordination structure continued to serve as a key forum for donors and the State of Palestine. The coordination of humanitarian assistance and advocacy continued to be led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

92. The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee met once during the reporting period, on 30 September 2015 in New York.

V. Unmet needs

93. Of the $5.4 billion pledged in Cairo for the recovery and reconstruction of Gaza in October 2014, some 39 per cent has been disbursed. However, only $17 million has gone towards financing the productive sector needs identified in the detailed needs assessment and recovery framework for Gaza (less than 3 per cent of the $602 million needed).

94. Given the continued humanitarian needs, the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan is requesting $571 million, of which $304 million is also included in the UNRWA Emergency Appeal. To date, only 15 per cent has been raised. In addition to the needs identified in the Plan, UNRWA is seeking an additional $99 million (for a total Emergency Appeal for 2016 of $405 million) to meet shelter, social safety net and other needs in Gaza, as well as provide food assistance and cash-for-work

programmes in the West Bank. Additional support is also urgently needed for the UNRWA core budget, which faces a predicted shortfall of $81 million in 2016.

95. United Nations agencies are seeking $2.15 billion to support development programming in the context of the United Nations Development Action Framework, of which 60 per cent has been funded to date.

VI. Challenges

96. The operating environment remained challenging, owing largely to restrictions on access and movement, including the closures in Gaza. Humanitarian space and the ability of United Nations organizations and partners to deliver timely assistance were limited at times by physical barriers such as checkpoints, a restrictive permit policy for humanitarian personnel and restrictions on the import of materials into Gaza.

97. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, restrictions on movement and access, demolitions of Palestinian infrastructure and the associated displacement of Palestinians all increased. Furthermore, significant settlement activity continued to take place, contributing to an escalation of tensions on the ground. While not directly targeted in the context of the increased violence that began in October 2015, United Nations personnel and dependants became more exposed to risk. United Nations movements were affected by increased closures and search operations at checkpoints and locations of security incidents, including improvised checkpoints set up by the Israeli security forces in East Jerusalem in October 2015.

98. United Nations agencies focused in particular on the reconstruction and recovery of Gaza. While the temporary Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism is functioning, reconstruction in several sectors is occurring at a slower pace owing to the lack of financing. The lack of progress on intra-Palestinian reconciliation, including civil service reform — an important condition for donor support for the reconstruction of Gaza emphasized at the conference held in Cairo in October 2014 — has also generated its own set of challenges in Gaza.

VII. Conclusions

99. The operational context for the work of the United Nations during the reporting period was increasingly challenging owing to the enormous task of supporting the recovery and reconstruction of Gaza following the conflict of 2014, in addition to the continued threats to the livelihoods of Palestinians, especially demolitions, and the ongoing restrictions, which posed formidable obstacles to development. The United Nations will continue to work towards the realization of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 1397 (2002), 1515 (2003), 1850 (2008) and 1860 (2009), an end to the occupation that began in 1967 and the establishment of a sovereign, democratic, viable and contiguous Palestinian State, existing side by side in peace with a secure Israel.

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Follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the International Conferences on Financing for Development

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Agenda item 11 (a)
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the forum on financing for development follow-up, including the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (New York, 18-20 April 2016)

I. Introduction

1. The Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up, including the special high-level meeting with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), was held in New York from 18 to 20 April 2016. The forum was chaired by the President of the Economic and Social Council, Oh Joon (Republic of Korea). The overall theme of the forum was "Financing for sustainable development: follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development".

2. The inaugural forum brought together a large number of high-level participants, including 17 ministers and vice-ministers, as well as many high-level government officials in the areas of finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation. An unprecedented number of World Bank Group and IMF Executive Directors, as well as senior officials of the United Nations system and other international organizations, attended the forum. Civil society organizations and the private sector were also strongly represented in the forum.

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3. The inaugural segment of the forum featured an opening address by the Secretary-General, video messages by the Managing Director of IMF and the Director General of WTO and statements by the Senior Vice-President of the World Bank, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (on behalf of the United Nations Development Group), the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (as Chair of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development), the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (on behalf of the five regional commissions). In addition, statements were delivered by the heads of relevant intergovernmental bodies, including the Chair of the Joint World Bank/IMF Development Committee, the President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD and the Acting Secretary of the International Monetary and Financial Committee of IMF.

4. A salient feature of the inaugural segment of the forum was the interactive dialogue with the representatives of intergovernmental bodies and senior management of the World Bank, IMF, UNCTAD and UNDP on two themes: (a) policy coherence in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; and (b) humanitarian and development nexus.

5. The general segment of the forum was organized around six round tables on the following themes: "Global framework for financing sustainable development"; "Domestic and international public resources"; "Domestic and international private business and finance"; "Debt and systemic issues"; "Trade, science, technology, innovation and capacity-building"; and "Data, monitoring and follow-up". In addition, a panel discussion was dedicated to the outcome of the Global Infrastructure Forum.

6. The participants had before them a note by the Secretary-General on monitoring commitments and actions in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (E/FFDF/2016/2). The inaugural 2016 report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda: Monitoring Commitments and Actions*, provided major substantive input.

II. Opening of the forum on financing for development follow-up

7. The opening of the forum featured statements by the President of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General, the Managing Director of IMF, Christine Lagarde, the Director General of WTO, Roberto Azevêdo, and the Senior Vice-President for the 2030 Development Agenda, United Nations Relations, and Partnerships of the World Bank Group, Mahmoud Mohieldin, who spoke on behalf of the President of the World Bank.

8. The President of the Economic and Social Council emphasized the mandate of the forum to discuss the follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In that context, the forum would perform four unique functions. First, it would serve as the primary platform for policy dialogue on financing for development follow-up to assess progress, identify challenges and facilitate the delivery of the means of implementation. It would also promote sharing of lessons learned at the national and regional levels while addressing new and emerging topics. Second, the forum would provide a platform for concrete action and would

result in intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations to guide the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Third, the forum would enable broad engagement by relevant stakeholders, as well as Member States. Fourth, it would carry out its work in accordance with an evidence-based approach, with the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force serving as the major analytical input for consideration.

9. The Secretary-General stressed the collective responsibility to turn the 2015 landmark agreements into tangible actions. The financing requirements to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals were estimated to be in the order of trillions of dollars annually. Mobilizing those resources would be a significant challenge, particularly at a time of continued economic uncertainty and financial constraints. The global response must match the scope of the challenge. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provided a comprehensive financing framework that, if fully implemented, would realign financial flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. He called for the implementation of the new "social compact" enshrined in the Action Agenda to provide social protection and essential public services for all, as well as greater investments in sustainable and resilient infrastructure. While South-South cooperation was driving innovation and demonstrating its effectiveness in many developing countries, official development assistance (ODA), especially to the least developed countries, remained crucial. Finance was also the key element in delivering on the new Paris Agreement and helping countries to implement their national climate plans.

10. Ms. Lagarde expressed the commitment of the Fund to the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and highlighted a range of action taken by IMF with a view to promoting macroeconomic stability, improving taxation, tackling climate change and supporting inclusive economic growth. In terms of macroeconomic stability, IMF continued to advise countries on their national frameworks and potential spillover effects. She noted the progress made in international tax cooperation, due largely to the base erosion and profit shifting initiatives, and called for focusing on improving national tax frameworks with a view to increasing tax revenues. Regarding climate change, IMF would continue to pursue research and provide technical assistance on subsidy removal strategies and the proper taxation of externalities, including through carbon taxation. Ms. Lagarde called upon Governments to target their spending properly, including on the education of young people, in particular girls, in order to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth.

11. Mr. Azevêdo highlighted the importance of the forum in ensuring coherence between the implementation of the financing for development outcomes and the 2030 Agenda. He highlighted the active involvement of WTO in the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force, especially in the area of trade. Given the complexity of achieving both the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, the report of the Task Force included a number of proposals aimed at determining the contribution of the multilateral trading system in specific areas, including special and differential treatment for developing countries and the least developed countries, issues in fisheries and agriculture, access to affordable medicines and the implementation of the outcomes of the WTO ministerial conferences held in Bali and Nairobi. According to him, recent developments in WTO had been encouraging. For example, in December 2015, Governments agreed on the most significant reform of global agricultural trade in the history of WTO

and made progress on preferential rules of origin and the implementation of preferential treatment in services for the least developed countries.

12. Mr. Mohieldin stressed the need to fully implement the landmark United Nations agreements of the previous year. Implementation required good data, skilful delivery and solid financing, including preparedness for shocks and natural disasters and the capacity to respond to crises of all kinds. The World Bank Group was deeply engaged in the financing for development process, including by taking an active part in the Inter-Agency Task Force. The World Bank Group, other multilateral development banks and IMF were working together to use shareholder capital, innovative financing solutions, knowledge and convening power to catalyse and "crowd in" additional public and private sector resources. The Group also worked on strengthening domestic resource mobilization capacity through the joint initiative with IMF on strengthening tax systems in developing countries. According to him, another crucial aspect of the financing for development agenda was infrastructure financing. In that context, he highlighted the launch of the new Global Infrastructure Forum. He emphasized that the Group remained committed to attracting investment in societies and markets affected by conflict, climate change or migration.

III. Statements by institutional stakeholders

13. Statements were made by the Chair of the Joint World Bank/IMF Development Committee, Bambang Brodjonegoro (Indonesia); the President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD, Alfredo Suescum A. (Panama); and the Acting Secretary of the International Monetary and Financial Committee of IMF, Calvin McDonald. Keynote presentations were also delivered by the Administrator of UNDP and Chair of the United Nations Development Group, Helen Clark; the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Chair of the Inter-Agency Task Force, Wu Hongbo; the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, Mukhisa Kituyi; and the Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Shamshad Akhtar.

14. Mr. Brodjonegoro referred to the current "forward look" exercise of the Development Committee, during which proposals would be developed to ensure that the World Bank Group remained responsive to diverse client needs, made "billions to trillions" a reality, partnered with the private sector, became a more effective development partner and adapted its business model accordingly. To implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Committee called for crowding in the private sector and boosting domestic resource mobilization, including by tackling illicit financial flows. It urged the Group and IMF to become more effective in fragile and conflict situations through strengthened operational capacity in affected countries, better-tailored capacity development activities, incentives and enhanced security for staff and innovative financing and resourcing. The Committee also called for the modernization of the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework, to be finalized by August 2016.

15. Mr. Suescum explained that UNCTAD, as an institutional stakeholder of the financing for development process, could play an important role in revitalizing the multilateral trading system, serving as a forum in which to exchange ideas and approaches to advance the WTO process and better integrate the multilateral trading system into the other pillars of global economic governance. He noted the

importance of international investment agreements and the broad interest in improving the investor-State dispute prevention and settlement system to promote an environment conducive for development. He recommended that UNCTAD and the regional commissions adequately cover financing for development issues in their intergovernmental programmes of work to ensure that the full breadth of experience and knowledge in the United Nations system was harnessed.

16. Mr. McDonald highlighted that the Committee called for a general three-pronged approach spanning structural, fiscal and monetary policies to address current economic challenges. A strong global financial safety net that protected countries from sudden liquidity shortages or external shocks would be important. Moving forward, the Fund would have three strategic priorities. First, it would identify fiscal space and propose measures to improve the policy mix. Second, it would provide financial support, when needed, with instruments suited to the evolving needs of member countries. Finally, it would help to address new challenges. The Fund would also undertake a number of reforms, including strengthening coordination with regional financing arrangements, revisiting the lending toolkit and considering further support for countries affected by the decline of commodity prices, refugee crises, epidemics and natural disasters.

17. Ms. Clark noted that the forum on financing for development follow-up must drive forward a clear plan for monitoring and reporting. At each annual forum, the international community could take stock of progress; consider who was being reached and who risked being left behind; and share experiences about innovative approaches to financing sustainable development. The United Nations Development Group could provide further support to implementation in a number of ways. First, UNDP would showcase the range of innovative financing approaches through its country-level work. Second, the United Nations development system could be a key partner to countries in building strong national ownership. Third, UNDP could support countries in building the broad coalitions and partnerships called for in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Fourth, UNDP would intensify its focus on the poorest and most vulnerable countries. Lastly, in partnership with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNDP would continue to advance the Tax Inspectors without Borders initiative, which supported developing countries in building their tax audit capacities.

18. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs launched the inaugural report of the Inter-Agency Task Force, noting that it mapped out the commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and their relationship to the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also presented the monitoring framework and data sources that would enable annual progress assessments. The report highlighted where the means of implementation targets were integrated into the broader financing framework. He concluded with three observations. First, the evolving global context called for flexibility in the follow-up process and the themes that it addressed. Second, given the comprehensive and complex nature of the financing for development outcomes, the Task Force proposed including an online appendix to address a broader set of commitments in addition to the report. Finally, further guidance from Member States would be needed to assess options for country reporting in the financing for development process and how it would relate to the Sustainable Development Goals.

19. Mr. Kituyi stated that, while substantial flows of foreign direct investment were anticipated to fill some of the financing gaps towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, UNCTAD research had raised concerns, such as the lack of investment in greenfield projects, the preponderance of mergers and acquisitions as a main form of investment, the collapse of investment in some commodity-dependent economies, and limited positive recovery and trade in the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. Those factors had a significant impact on the ability of Governments to reach the ambitions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. In concluding, he acknowledged the need to pay sufficient attention to monitoring, data and sound statistics but argued that those were only secondary to good implementation. He invited participants to engage in the fourteenth session of UNCTAD.

20. Ms. Akhtar reviewed priorities in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, such as mobilizing domestic resources, overcoming gaps in infrastructure financing, implementing sound macroprudential policy frameworks and tools to address financial vulnerability, and enhancing debt sustainability management. She emphasized the need to combat illicit financial flows and to promote global partnerships for countries in special situations. After recapping important initiatives at the regional level to address those priorities, she concluded by recommending that the global follow-up and review process more comprehensively recognize the role of the regional commissions.

IV. General debate

21. During the general debate, more than 50 government representatives, including 17 ministers and vice-ministers, made statements. Representatives of United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector also spoke. Joint statements were delivered by the Group of 77 and China, the European Union, the Group of African States, the Caribbean Community, the Alliance of Small Island States and a group of countries in support of middle-income countries.

22. Delegations welcomed the forum on financing for development follow-up as a significant milestone in the implementation of and follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. They reaffirmed the centrality of the former in accelerating progress on financing sustainable development and called for strengthened cooperation in implementing all of its action areas in a full and balanced manner, leaving no one behind. Many delegations also recognized that the forum was instrumental in paving the way for a successful high-level political forum on sustainable development, to be held in July 2016.

23. Many speakers agreed that significant progress had been made in implementing the financing for development outcomes but that much more needed to be done to translate commitments in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda into concrete actions. A number of delegations stressed the need to ensure adequate balance between an enabling international environment, global partnership for development and domestic resource mobilization. Policy coherence, mobilization of financing from a variety of sources and aligning financial flows with sustainable development objectives were seen as crucial. Implementation must go beyond finance and cover policies as diverse as good governance, trade, private sector engagement and gender equality. Member States expressed their commitment to formulating policies that would facilitate integration of both the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda into their national plans and priorities.

24. Member States welcomed the inaugural report of the Inter-Agency Task Force and agreed on the proposed three-pronged approach comprising a brief discussion of the global context, a concise overview of each chapter with updated data and new initiatives and a discussion of specific thematic issues, drawing on input from the seven action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Recognizing that monitoring required accurate measurements and updated reporting from all stakeholders, delegates noted that annual reporting on progress by the Task Force would be essential to ensure coherence among different actors, identify gaps and best practices and make recommendations for future action.

25. While recognizing that all sources of financing were important to achieve sustainable development, delegates stressed that ODA remained an essential component of international development cooperation and that the fulfilment of all ODA commitments was crucial. Concern was expressed about the continued fall in ODA to the least developed countries. Inadequate resources exacerbated by illicit financial flows, discriminatory trade rules, high debt burden, systemic issues and lack of capacity were highlighted as additional obstacles to sustainable development. Some delegations pointed out the unique challenges faced by African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as middle-income countries and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

26. Participants noted that the international community was facing serious economic and humanitarian challenges, with a wide gap between needs and resources. Innovative and comprehensive approaches were required to raise additional financing for sustainable development. There was broad consensus that South-South cooperation had proved to be an important supplement to North-South and triangular cooperation. Some speakers highlighted the potential of remittances, urging the international community to reduce the associated transaction costs. The importance of private investment, tax revenues and philanthropy was also emphasized.

27. Member States recognized that capacity development was of great importance in addressing the specific needs of developing countries and should reflect their national sustainable development strategies and priorities. A call was made for increased international support and the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships to implement effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries. In that regard, some Member States called for enhanced engagement on the part of major international institutions, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and UNCTAD, in providing technical assistance and expertise in the areas of industrialization and trade and investment.

28. It was noted that developing countries should have a stronger role in international economic decision-making, norm setting and global governance. Calls were made for scaling up international tax cooperation and for greater transparency in financial flows. Tax evasion and money-laundering represented a threat to international stability and development, and participants committed to working together in the fight against illicit financial flows. Many participants endorsed efforts to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability, including measures aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management. Stressing that international trade and investment were engines for development, several speakers called for the prompt conclusion of the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

29. Delegations welcomed the launch of the Global Infrastructure Forum and acknowledged the establishment of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, as called for in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Other early achievements of the commitments under the Action Agenda include ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, supporting the private sector in developing countries and investing in women's economic empowerment.

V. Interactive dialogue on fostering policy coherence in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

30. The interactive dialogue was chaired by the President of the Economic and Social Council, Oh Joon, and moderated by Eliza Anyangwe of the Guardian News and Media and CNN International. Opening remarks were delivered by the President of the Council; the Dean of the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank Group, Merza Hasan; the Dean of the Board of Executive Directors of IMF, Aleksei Mozhin; and the President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD, Alfredo Suescum A.

31. The President of the Economic and Social Council explained that the innovative format of the dialogue was designed to respond to the mutual desire of the Council and the Executive Boards of the World Bank Group and IMF to strengthen their interaction within the framework of the forum on financing for development follow-up. Mr. Hasan welcomed the efforts of the Council to strengthen the dialogue, making it more inclusive and interactive. Highlighting the emerging global challenges, in particular the humanitarian crisis, he noted that the Bank had redesigned its modalities and country-specific approach to become more dynamic. The Bank also saw the need to more strategically use its concessional resources by focusing more on leveraging the private sector, while strengthening partnerships with other actors, including the United Nations. Mr. Mozhin stressed the commitment of IMF to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and noted that, during the IMF/World Bank meetings held in April 2016, ministers and governors committed to upgrading their efforts to secure sustained economic growth. In addition, new initiatives had been developed to complement the Fund's traditional role of fostering sustainable economic growth and financial stability. Mr. Suescum pointed out that the scope and ambition of the new Agenda increased stakes and challenges, which warranted unprecedented collaborative efforts among institutions. It was important that the United Nations system avoid duplication at both the Secretariat and intergovernmental levels. He underscored the value of bringing together trade, finance and development ministers so that coherence was addressed in both substance and format.

32. The dialogue addressed two themes: (a) policy coherence in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; and (b) humanitarian and development nexus. Under the first theme, the lead discussants were: the World Bank Group Executive Director for the United States of America, Matthew McGuire; the Chair of the IMF Executive Board Committee on Liaison with the World Bank, the United Nations and other International Organizations and IMF Executive Director for Canada, Ireland and the Caribbean, Serge Dupont; and the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Héctor Alejandro Palma Cerna (Honduras).

33. Mr. McGuire argued that policy coherence required conceptual clarity. The world had a solid sense of how to move forward in general terms, for example on domestic resource mobilization, but progress needed to be made in crowding in private capital to support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals through the use of relevant tools and financial instruments. Regulatory harmonization for the new tools and actors, such as crowdfunding entrepreneurs and diaspora investment funds, was important. Mr. Dupont recalled the Fund's core responsibility to promote monetary and financial stability, as well as its three business lines, namely surveillance and policy advice; lending; and capacity development and technical assistance. He presented the IMF initiatives to implement the 2030 Agenda, including expanding its concessional lending facility by 50 per cent and setting the interest rate to zero on its rapid credit facility, both of which targeted low-income countries. The Fund would feature more domestic revenue mobilization in its surveillance work, expand its capacity-building activities and work on such issues as infrastructure, gender and climate change. Following the 2010 quota reform, the Fund would embark on the fifteenth quota review, to be completed by its annual meeting in 2017. Mr. Palma Cerna highlighted the distinct challenges of middle-income countries. He argued that the per capita income-based category did not reflect the multidimensional nature of poverty. In that connection, he asked the representatives of the World Bank and IMF to elaborate on mechanisms that had been established and actions that had been taken to consider the specific challenges of middle-income countries. He also raised a question as to how to engage non-State actors to become fully fledged development partners.

34. In the ensuing interactive discussions, it was noted that coherence needed to be implemented at the institutional and project levels. It was also critical to support the tools and the development of local expertise to achieve bankability at the project level. Member States were called upon to stay open-minded and act on the ideas that had emerged from the forum. In view of the overwhelming attention to monitoring and review, participants were reminded of the importance of follow-up in the form of normative policy discussions.

35. With the focus brought to national implementation, a World Bank Executive Director asked whether international institutions were providing coherent support for country implementation and whether those efforts were successful. In response, Governments confirmed their readiness to work with international organizations to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. National efforts to expand the tax base and the need to remove harmful trade-distorting subsidies were emphasized. Noting the ongoing challenges of low commodity prices and high unemployment rates, industrialization and addressing illicit financial flows were seen as high priorities. A call was also made for greater policy space for developing countries in the light of the impact of free trade and investment agreements.

36. Several questions regarding institutional adaptation were addressed to the Executive Directors. The Dean of the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank Group reaffirmed that the Bank was changing its way of engaging with countries by studying country situations and encouraging the private sector to support national development with such instruments as guarantees. Likewise, IMF had taken an approach sensitive to country circumstances and continued to assess the fitness of its toolkit on the basis of crystallized risks. One of the examples was its increased engagement in the area of gender, as women's empowerment had been seen as a productivity-boosting factor and as macroeconomically important.

37. To enable global policy coherence, it was emphasized that some shared understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals and some basic concepts, for example how to leverage the private sector, should be developed among institutions. A related question was the institutional set-up to allow for the development of such shared understanding. Since the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda went beyond ODA, the coordination arrangements must also go beyond the aid community. To that end, the forum was seen as an appropriate platform. However, to achieve real progress, more engagement among global institutions, beyond its annual exchange, was needed.

38. Under the second theme, the lead discussants were: the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Jürg Lauber (Switzerland); and the World Bank Group Executive Director for Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden, Satu Santala.

39. Mr. Lauber stressed the need to bridge the humanitarian and development divides at the operational level, with a view to helping countries to strengthen their capacity for prevention and resilience building. Allocation of funding had a critical role to play in supporting coherence. Earmarking of resources contributed to duplication, competition and waste of resources. Getting humanitarian finance right could help to push institutional changes through, leading to improved coherence. The United Nations and the World Bank needed to work on a multi-year programme based on their comparative advantages to deliver aid on the ground. Ms. Santala highlighted priority actions before, during and after a crisis. Before a crisis, relevant institutions and systems needed to be put in place to provide a social safety net when needed. During a crisis, a longer-term vision needed to be adopted. Affected populations should be seen not only as victims but also as productive forces. Investment needed to focus on education, job creation and infrastructure development. After a crisis, attention had to be shifted to unlocking the potential of the private sector and understanding possible solutions at the regional level. According to her, collaboration between such institutions as the United Nations and the World Bank should not only depend on the goodwill of the leaders of the institutions but also become a permanent way of working for the benefit of the recipient countries, supported by financial and internal incentives.

40. In the interactive discussion, an IMF Executive Director presented the work of IMF in fragile and conflict-affected States. He emphasized that IMF focused on institution-building and capacity development by deploying long-term advisers and working with national authorities and other actors. The Dean of the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank Group also highlighted the distinct focus needed in the context of natural disasters and conflicts. In the former, efforts should be directed towards making the economy more resilient, whereas in the latter the focus should be shifted to prevention. Another World Bank Group Executive Director stressed that the World Bank needed to work more closely with the United Nations to better understand the local context.

41. It was noted that short- and long-term interventions should continue in parallel but that greater attention was needed for investment in long-term development. Member States called upon international organizations to work with national institutions, which were most familiar with national contexts. Lessons learned from the Ebola crisis and the importance of having a unified vision and priorities, as well as strategic planning, were emphasized.

VI. Round tables and panel discussion

Round table A: Global framework for financing sustainable development

42. The round table was chaired by the State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation of Ethiopia, Ahmed Shide. The Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, David Nabarro, moderated the panel discussion. Presentations were made by the following panellists: the Deputy Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships, Coordination and Intergovernmental Support Bureau of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Lakshmi Puri; and the Deputy Director General, Coordinator for Natural Resources, of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Maria Helena Semedo. The Director of Social Protection of the International Labour Organization, Isabel Ortiz, served as lead discussant.

43. The Chair opened the session by highlighting that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provided a new global framework for financing sustainable development that utilized the full range of financial and non-financial means of implementation in support of the 2030 Agenda. The moderator highlighted that the forum on financing for development follow-up would be the first of a series of events to put in practice the follow-up to the landmark agreements reached in 2015.

44. Ms. Puri highlighted that mainstreaming gender in the formulation and implementation of all financial, economic, environmental and social policies was essential to fulfil the 2030 Agenda. She stressed the importance of the institutionalization of a gender-responsive approach to public finance, including through budgeting, macroeconomic policies and tracking public expenditure across all sectors. She urged all Member States to recommit to gender equality by adopting the voluntary Addis Ababa Action Plan on Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and reporting on its implementation.

45. Ms. Semedo emphasized that the new global financing framework enshrined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda must build synergies between the climate change and the sustainable food and agriculture agendas. Eradicating poverty and hunger by 2030 required greater agriculture-related income, including through an increase in investment in rural areas, and the safeguarding of resilient, sustainable and inclusive food production systems. Whereas family farms were the key to achieving much of the 2030 Agenda, they faced notable constraints stemming from inadequate policy and laws, including insufficient access to technologies and services, vulnerability to agricultural risks and market distortions, and lack of relevant property rights. An enabling policy framework was needed to stimulate investment in agriculture, complemented by effective partnerships and country-level commitments.

46. While recognizing the comprehensive nature of the global social compact included in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Ms. Ortiz cautioned that social protection was not adequately covered under any global funds and was still severely underfunded, at only 2.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) worldwide. While development aid was important, she highlighted the reallocation of public expenditures, increase in tax revenues, including by fighting tax evasion and expanding contributory coverage, and the adoption of accommodating macroeconomic frameworks as important instruments to finance social protection.

Ms. Ortiz called for establishing a global social protection fund to improve the capacity of Governments to set up social protection floors.

47. In the ensuing discussion, several participants recognized the centrality of gender policies and institutions, food security and social protection for achieving sustainable development. It was emphasized that Governments needed to take the lead in facilitating public and private partnerships by reconciling the interests of diverse stakeholders and monitoring progress in the implementation of measures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. To that end, the forum should become an effective instrument to follow up on the social compact contained in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Round table B: Domestic and international public resources

48. The round table was chaired by the Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, Gina Casar. Amar Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution, moderated the panel discussion. During the first segment, on domestic public resources, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Chair of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, Armando Lara Yaffar (Mexico); and the Deputy Division Chief of the Fiscal Affairs Department of IMF, Peter Mullins. The Program Director of the Dakar Municipal Finance Program, Khady Dia, served as lead discussant. During the second segment, on international development cooperation, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Director of the OECD Development Centre and Acting Director of the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate, Mario Pezzini; and the World Bank Group Executive Director for Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka, Subhash Chandra Garg. Smita Nakhooda, Senior Research Fellow of the Overseas Development Institute, served as lead discussant.

49. At the outset, the Chair noted that strengthening domestic resource mobilization was a central mandate in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and recalled that the emphasis on domestic revenues marked an important change from the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration. The moderator emphasized the very large fiscal gains that could be made from reducing fossil fuel subsidies, increasing carbon taxes and undertaking tax and wider fiscal reforms. As regards the second segment of the panel, he stressed the role of international development banks in supporting sustainable infrastructure and the centrality of ODA in tackling the issues related to refugees and displaced persons.

50. Mr. Lara Yaffar noted the importance of strengthening cooperation among countries to promote cross-border investment and reduce tax evasion. The Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters had aimed, since its creation, at improving the dialogue between developed and developing countries to strike a balance between their respective interests in setting international tax norms. The Committee was working on addressing some fundamental issues faced by developing countries, namely determination of transfer prices and allocation of profits in connection with transactions occurring within multinational enterprises; taxation of extractive industries; enhanced exchange of information mechanisms and transparency standards; and taxation of cross-border services. He called for the speedy implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda commitment to increase the resources of the Committee and the frequency of its sessions, as well as to enhance its engagement with the Economic and Social Council.

51. Mr. Mullins stated that challenges for revenue mobilization continued to be very significant and reported that, according to IMF data, between 2014 and 2016 around two thirds of countries had experienced a decline in revenues as a share of GDP. IMF had identified several key areas in which there was potential for domestic revenue mobilization. With regard to the corporate income tax, he called for reforming tax incentives regimes whose costs were higher than the benefits, as well as combating international tax evasion and avoidance. Moreover, domestic fiscal reforms in the areas of personal income tax, property tax, value added tax and environmental and extractive industries taxation were crucial for domestic resource mobilization. IMF was committed to supporting developing countries' efforts in those areas through technical assistance and capacity-building, as well as through analytical tools.

52. Ms. Dia noted that by 2050 most of the global population would be urban based and stressed the need to act locally and involve municipalities and local communities to ensure effective revenue mobilization. She reported on the experience of Dakar, which had been reforming the local tax system to become less dependent on transfers from the central Government. The city had been trying to leverage resources from local banks and development banks for investment in local infrastructure and was working with partners to raise funds in the financial market through municipal bonds. In that context, she emphasized the need to ensure better cooperation between different layers of government to empower local finance for sustainable development.

53. Mr. Pezzini emphasized that different sources of funding for international development cooperation should be used in synergetic and, where possible, catalytic ways, for example by employing ODA in a blended finance framework and encouraging South-South and triangular cooperation. With the increase in vulnerability, ODA played an increasingly important role in meeting the needs of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries. Between 2014 and 2015, ODA worldwide had increased by 1.7 per cent and, taking into account refugee in-country assistance, by 6.9 per cent. The quality and effectiveness of international development cooperation would be the key to maximizing the impact of ODA.

54. Mr. Garg highlighted that the Sustainable Development Goals would have to be delivered in a challenging context characterized by dropping commodity prices, a cautious approach by many fiscal authorities and often ineffective monetary policies. In a context where domestic public and private resource mobilization might be heavily affected by international financial flows, ODA, South-South cooperation and multilateral development banks could leverage resources to achieve the Goals. The negative flow of capital resources from developing to developed countries reported in 2015 emphasized the need for multilateral development banks to increase their financing efforts and for more South-South cooperation, including such initiatives as the New Development Bank.

55. Ms. Nakhooda noted that, according to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, all financial flows should support the 2030 Agenda. She emphasized the importance of the financial architecture encompassing all actors and the need to include private actors in a context where resource constraints could make it difficult to significantly increase official flows to support financing for development. She recalled the commitment to a holistic agenda comprising an inclusive social compact and environmental protection across all countries,

including the least developed countries. She highlighted the critical challenge facing middle-income countries in planning strategies with a balanced trade-off between long-term, low-emission investments and more immediate development policies, as well as the potential for South-South cooperation among developing countries.

56. During the ensuing discussion, participants called upon countries to respect their ODA commitments and to increase efforts to combat illicit financial flows. Several speakers addressed issues related to the high administrative costs of tackling the informal economic sector in the fiscal framework and stressed that efforts would need to be targeted in order to deliver satisfactory results. Some speakers reiterated the central role of capacity development, the importance of subsidy reforms and the opportunity to better structure excise taxes to obtain revenues, as well as achieve environmental objectives.

Round table C: Domestic and international private business and finance

57. The round table was chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General for Economic and Global Issues of the European Union, Christian Leffler. The Executive Director of the Group of 24 secretariat, Marilou Uy, moderated the panel discussion. During the first segment, on domestic private business and finance, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Vice-President of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Chief Executive Officer of the IFC Asset Management Company (World Bank Group), Gavin Wilson; and the Managing Director of Principles for Responsible Investment, Fiona Reynolds. The Chief Responsible Investment Officer of Aviva Investors, Steve Waygood, served as lead discussant. During the second segment, on international private business and finance, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Executive Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (World Bank Group), Keiko Honda; and the Director of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies of UNCTAD, Richard Kozul-Wright. Bill Streeter, Senior Finance Adviser of the Global Clearinghouse for Development Finance, served as lead discussant.

58. The Chair emphasized that the theme of the round table was at the heart of the successful implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. Private sector investment needed to be married with responsible conduct and social responsibility. The moderator encouraged participants to reflect on what factors must be addressed to encourage the private sector to invest in long-term development financing in responsible ways, at both the national and international levels.

59. Mr. Wilson commented that multilateral development banks could provide support for domestic finance in four ways: (a) provide advice on particular projects; (b) structure and underwrite specific transactions; (c) assist in identifying and creating investible opportunities and ensure that projects met environmental, social and governance benchmarks; and (d) serve as a source of finance. He presented examples of strategies that had been used to develop local capital markets to promote domestic investment. For example, in Nigeria and Zambia, IFC supported the emergence of local corporate bond markets by acting as the anchor investor in specific bond issuances.

60. Ms. Reynolds acknowledged the need for sustainability to be at the core of capital markets to address the financing gap facing the 2030 Agenda. She reviewed the results of a recent Principles for Responsible Investment survey in which members were asked to identify how to overcome barriers to investing in the Sustainable Development Goals. Responses included making the Goals relevant to investors, effective regulatory action, better company reporting and transparency, increasing capacity for actions among investors, greater demand from clients and beneficiaries, support from other actors in the investment system, and tackling short-termism. She stressed the need for projects to be investible. Finally, she advised that, while investors had often used fiduciary duty as a reason not to invest, fiduciary duty also included providing long-term returns that were risk adjusted.

61. Mr. Waygood outlined steps to build on the recommendations of the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force. He noted that, while target 12.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals called for integrated reporting, its corresponding indicator called for stand-alone sustainability reports. Yet integrated reporting was essential and should not be undermined by the indicator. In addition, he called upon investors to report on their activities. He also called for more in-depth discussions on how to incentivize financial markets to invest in the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Waygood also highlighted the need to establish comparable corporate sustainability benchmarks, which should be revisited annually to promote competition between companies. Finally, he recommended that national curricula be developed so that future investors understood the implications of their investments and how they related to the achievement of the Goals.

62. Ms. Honda articulated the important role that the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency had played in mobilizing private investment. With a mandate for cross-border investment, its business model worked with multinational corporations not only to bring in capital but also to share expertise with host countries on a variety of issues, including infrastructure, agriculture and manufacturing. Host countries benefited from the presence of those companies through boosts in trade and revenue, knowledge transfer and vocational training. Given its access to host country Governments, investors felt more comfortable in investing through the Agency. That perceived value added had resulted in lower financing costs in the host country, particularly on long-term infrastructure development projects. In turn, private investors must meet environmental and social standards in implementing projects.

63. Mr. Kozul-Wright reflected on the financing gap facing the 2030 Agenda. He stressed that the current narrative purported that Governments could not come close to filling the gap and that the private sector must be incentivized to invest. Many proponents of that approach would count on financial engineering and self-regulation as the dominant method to mobilize capital for development. However, over recent decades, that approach had resulted in a large increase in the share of corporate profits of national income at the expense of productive investment. Historically, large financial needs were tackled mostly through targeted government spending, infant industry protection, investment in research and development and infrastructure, and regulation of the private sector. Hence, the public sector would have to continue to play a driving role in mobilizing investments in sustainable development.

64. Mr. Streeter observed that, while there were significant amounts of available capital, efforts were needed to ensure that investors found infrastructure projects in developing countries appealing. First, investors preferred stable revenue. Second,

infrastructure was a long-term asset, which would match the long-term liabilities of many institutional investors. Finally, infrastructure investments could meet the social responsibility requirements for investing. However, long-term investment capital did not like exposure to exchange rate, illiquidity and reputational risk. Mr. Streeter concluded by outlining the need for adequate investment planning and well-structured partnerships between domestic and international capital.

65. During the interactive dialogue, reference was made to the need for enhanced interaction between large private sector companies and local businesses. Public-private partnerships were acknowledged as a potential way to garner additional resources, but not as a substitute for public investment. Participants also raised concerns over tax leakages and illicit financial flows. Speakers noted the need to adopt safeguards to meet labour standards and to ensure that transnational corporations were abiding by human rights standards.

Round table D: Debt and systemic issues

66. The round table was chaired by the Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, Héctor Alejandro Palma Cerna (Honduras). The Director of the Economic and Political Development Concentration of the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University, José Antonio Ocampo, moderated the panel discussion. During the first segment, on debt, presentations were made by the following panellists: the World Bank Group Executive Director for Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Ireland, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Alister Smith; and the Head of the Debt and Development Finance Branch of the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies of UNCTAD, Stephanie Blankenburg. Lee C. Buchheit, partner at Cleary Gottlieb Steen and Hamilton, served as lead discussant. During the second segment, on systemic issues, the Deputy Managing Director of IMF, Min Zhu, served as a panellist, and the Executive Director of the New Rules for Global Finance Coalition, Jo Marie Griesgraber, served as lead discussant.

67. The Chair opened the round table by welcoming participants and outlining the topics to be discussed during the round table. The moderator drew attention to the need for cooperation among stakeholders towards the elimination of major global imbalances and underscored the need for further reform of the international financial system.

68. Mr. Smith emphasized that the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiatives had achieved significant progress in reducing the debt burden of many low-income countries. However, exceptions remained in small middle-income countries with a population of less than 1.5 million, particularly in the Caribbean region. He was sceptical about introducing new institutions for sovereign debt restructuring owing to political difficulties. He stated that aggregated collective action clauses and the introduction of pari passu clauses were important improvements for sovereign debt restructuring processes. In addition, it was important to strengthen the work of existing institutions. The forum on financing for development follow-up should play a stronger role in coordinating the efforts of different actors, such as the Paris Club and international financial institutions.

69. Ms. Blankenburg highlighted the increasing use of debt to promote economic growth, the volatility of capital flows and the lack of financial deepening as some of

the critical challenges for debt sustainability in developing countries and beyond. She argued that, while the Addis Ababa Action Agenda comprised key principles for the prevention and resolution of debt crises, debt sustainability would ultimately require a more stable international financial system. That would include a reform of analytical and institutional frameworks, strengthened national legislation, an analysis of long-term debt sustainability vis-à-vis national productive capacities and a stronger role for international public finance.

70. Mr. Buchheit noted that, as a consequence of low interest rates in developed countries after the 2008 financial crisis, as well as low commodity prices, both developing and developed countries had resorted increasingly to debt financing in the past years. Given that those trends had started to reverse, debt problems were likely to intensify. For the same reason, debt refinance risk would become more of an issue. Furthermore, debt was less frequently paid in instalments but rather in full, regardless of electoral cycles. The introduction of the concept of lender responsibility was an important improvement. However, while the principle of supermajority requirements had been dominant in private insolvency regimes and bankruptcy codes, it was introduced to sovereign debt workout mechanisms only in 2002 and had yet to be mainstreamed in developing country debt frameworks.

71. Mr. Zhu emphasized that global economic governance needed to become more inclusive and representative to better reflect the role of developing and dynamic economies. IMF had taken some important steps in that direction, for example the 2010 quota and governance reform, as well as the overhaul of the surveillance and lending toolkits. However, more needed to be done, including the completion of the next quota review by the 2017 annual meeting and reforms of the global financial safety net, as well as on other issues, such as the fight against climate change and support for fragile States. In general, global cooperation would be essential to ensure policy coherence in all areas of the global financial architecture. Finally, Mr. Zhu highlighted that macroeconomic policies, for example capital flow management measures and flexible exchange rates, were the first line of defence against volatile and procyclical capital flows.

72. Mr. Ocampo suggested that, although the world had never had better surveillance mechanisms, especially through the Group of 20 and its mutual assessment process, the results had been insufficient. The mechanisms had had little impact on reducing existing global imbalances, and additional imbalances were evolving. He proposed to reform the global reserve system through the creation of a fully special drawing rights-based IMF with a clear countercyclical focus. Regional monetary arrangements could also play a useful complementary role. Indeed, the Fund of the future could be conceived as the apex of a network of regional funds, that is, as an institution closer in design to the European Central Bank or the Federal Reserve Bank. In addition, Mr. Ocampo called for more progress in terms of a greater voice and greater participation in international financial institutions on the part of developing countries.

73. Ms. Griesgraber highlighted the deficits in voice and participation of developing countries in global economic governance. She suggested that the IMF constituency model should also include people and labour, in addition to money and capital. Furthermore, to improve governance mechanisms, transparency, inclusion and accountability should be strengthened, including through the establishment of a complaint mechanism. Regarding global tax matters, coherence between the United

Nations, IMF and OECD remained of critical importance, and the representation of developing countries needed strengthening. There was a need for better data on the volume and impact of illicit financial flows from developing countries.

74. During the interactive discussions, some participants warned that ongoing debt crises could endanger the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, debt sustainability analysis should include Sustainable Development Goal financing needs. As regards systemic issues, participants highlighted the role of regional and bilateral institutions in addressing international capital flow volatility, which could play a countercyclical role. Speakers also called for additional reforms on "too big to fail" and shadow banking regulation.

Round table E: Trade, science, technology, innovation and capacity-building

75. The round table was chaired by the Minister and Private Secretary for National Policies of Nicaragua, Paul Oquist Kelley. The President of the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD, Alfredo Suescum A., moderated the panel discussion. During the first segment, on trade, presentations were made by the following panellists: the Head of the International Trade Centre Office to the United Nations, Puvan Selvanathan; and the Counsellor and Head of the Committee on Trade and Development Unit of the Development Division of WTO, Hans-Peter Werner. The Director of International Programs at the Center for Economic and Policy Research, Deborah James, served as lead discussant. During the second segment, on science, technology, innovation and capacity-building, the Director General of the International Intellectual Property Institute, Andrew Hirsch, served as a panellist, and Ambuj Sagar, Professor of Policy Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology and a member of the group of experts convened to support the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, served as lead discussant.

76. The Chair welcomed the participants and outlined the topics to be discussed during the round table. The moderator acknowledged that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda highlighted the role that trade could play as an instrument for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. With regard to the second segment, he emphasized that investment in innovation leading to the development of affordable technology could make a significant contribution to the achievement of the Goals.

77. Mr. Selvanathan highlighted that strengthening the role of domestic small and medium-sized enterprises in export-led strategies was a tool to avoid distortions in agricultural markets and promote technology transfers, ultimately supporting employment growth and economic development. In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particular attention should be placed on small and medium-sized enterprises and their human element. Such enterprises around the world and across industries were all part of the same value chain structure, where the greatest value resided in such activities as patenting, consulting and design. Even though such enterprises constituted the bulk of the economic sector in developing countries, they were often concentrated in lower-value activities, such as reselling, as well as maintaining and picking crops. Understanding their contribution to the value chain was essential to identify strategies to increase their value added.

78. Mr. Werner emphasized that Sustainable Development Goal 17 contained the trade-related commitments to conclude the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations at WTO, stimulate exports in developing countries and realize the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries. Those commitments, also included in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and in the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration, would be challenging to implement in the current economic scenario. To that end, the trading standards qualification framework, preferential rules of origin and preferential treatment for services were important to achieve Goal 17 and facilitate the attainment of several other Goals, including those related to the reduction of inequality, the building of resilient infrastructure, and access to health care.

79. Ms. James highlighted that the current model of trade agreement constrained developing countries' policy space and limited, rather than promoted, their ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and other preferential agreements could further exacerbate the marginalization of vulnerable economies by preventing policies to retain knowledge from services and technology. New-generation trade agreements would often be based on proposals by multinational enterprises and would not sufficiently safeguard human rights, health and the provision of essential goods and services. In order to meet the Goals, developing countries would need to ensure that trade agreements did not undermine their ability to pursue public policy objectives and would need to unwind agreements with a negative impact in such areas as the environment, social services and safety.

80. Mr. Hirsch noted that a just, sustainable and integrated innovation and knowledge-based global ecosystem would require strong foundations, including peace and social stability, a market-based economy, respect for the rule of law, targeted national policies and multi-stakeholder participation. The technology bank was established as a facilitating mechanism to address science, technology and innovation gaps in the least developed countries by helping them to build a robust science, technology and innovation base, supporting their technology access, acquisition and utilization and promoting the research networking of their science, technology and innovation community. It was time to operationalize the technology bank, with a view to ensuring information access to support research and development, supporting intellectual property rights and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms and conditions and providing intellectual property technical assistance and training for the benefit of the least developed countries.

81. Mr. Sagar stated that science and technology played a critical role in today's world for achieving sustainable development. Customized strategies that took national priorities into account were needed. Domestic efforts of developing countries needed to be complemented by effective international support mechanisms in order to develop human and institutional capabilities to support innovation. Moreover, additional financing could play a major role, especially in promoting joint technology development and catalysing critical interventions to develop new technology and markets. In that context, he mentioned several initiatives, including the technology bank, the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

82. During the ensuing interactive discussion, several speakers noted that, while the linkage between trade and technology was a major opportunity, innovation

remained a challenge for Governments. It was important to consider how the rules of trade could have an impact on development, promote innovation and improve access to markets for developing countries. The technology bank should be operationalized soon, given that it could help to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in developing countries. Some speakers reiterated that most developing countries lacked the resources to invest in technology, hence the need for multilateral support, including for research and development.

Round table F: Data, monitoring and follow-up

83. The round table was chaired by the Minister of State for Development and Francophonie of France, André Vallini. The Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Lenni Montiel, moderated the panel discussion. Presentations were made by the following panellists: the Division Chief of the Financial Institutions Division of the Statistics Department of IMF, Robert York; and the Chair of the Statistical Commission, John James Pullinger (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (by video link). The Managing Director of the Society for International Development, Stefano Prato, served as lead discussant.

84. The Chair opened the panel and highlighted the need for data disaggregation and the development of new technologies, as well as the importance of engaging new stakeholders, such as civil society and the business sector. The moderator called upon speakers to address how to achieve a balance between existing data and developing new capacities, enhance accountability in monitoring in the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and tackle data gaps on national and cross-border financial flows.

85. Mr. York reflected on lessons learned from the IMF data standards initiatives. First, it was important that human, financial and technological resources for the development of statistics be adequate; where resources were scarce, statistical development suffered. Second, political support for statistics must be strong, continuous and present in legal and institutional structures. Third, instruments to support monitoring and implementation were essential, and capacity-building should be targeted in very specific ways. Mr. York encouraged participants to have candid and informed discussions about the resources needed to support statistical development and to identify ways to ensure that political commitments could be sustained throughout the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

86. Mr. Pullinger shared four conclusions from the work of the Statistical Commission in developing the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals. First, there was an urgent need for well-targeted investments in national statistical systems to improve official data, take advantage of new technologies and build data science. Second, he underscored the need to build analytical capability within Governments. Third, he underlined the need to build partnerships with civil society and the private sector to improve data literacy among citizens and promote accountability. Finally, he called for skills development and knowledge transfer towards building sustainable national capabilities.

87. Mr. Prato discussed how best to organize the financing for development follow-up process along the four pillars, namely contextualization, monitoring, the normative agenda and global economic governance. First, the forum should be a space in which to contextualize and discuss what was happening in the world.

Second, there must be a clear understanding of the methodology of data production; without it, data outcomes would continue to be contested. Third, policy development, standard setting and policy convergence must be key features of the forum, and multi-year planning must be undertaken towards those ends. Finally, the forum should build an organic relationship with other institutions, such as the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Global Infrastructure Forum. To conclude, he called for an additional two-day meeting on financing for development in 2016 to discuss how to realize those objectives.

88. During the interactive dialogue, the issue of building data monitoring systems for philanthropic organizations on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was raised. Governance was also identified as the factor that would enable statistical agencies to survey and measure the impacts of strategic investments. Several speakers called for innovative approaches to supplement the core data from government institutions. Better data needed to be published on how policy formulations were addressing the needs of the people. Some speakers highlighted the need for data visualization and data aggregation to enhance understanding of what worked in order to facilitate investment.

Panel discussion on the Global Infrastructure Forum

89. The following were presenters at the panel discussion: the Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer of the World Bank Group, Joaquim Levy; the Manager of the Infrastructure and Environment Sector of the Inter-American Development Bank, Pablo Pereira dos Santos; the Corporate Director of the European Investment Bank, Thomas Barrett; the Representative of the North American Representative Office of the Asian Development Bank, Craig Steffensen; the Senior Director of the Public-Private Partnerships Group of the World Bank Group, Laurence Carter; and the Group Executive of Strategy of the Development Bank of Southern Africa, Mohan Vivekanandan.

90. Mr. Levy briefed participants on the outcome of the first Global Infrastructure Forum, held in Washington, D.C., on 16 April 2016, including its decision to hold annual meetings, to rotate the chairmanship among the multilateral development banks and to cooperate with the United Nations, including through annual reporting to the forum on financing for development follow-up. Discussions at the Global Infrastructure Forum were focused on more, better and effective spending on infrastructure. He stressed three pillars for future work: (a) addressing the risk of infrastructure projects through better-quality projects and more effective regulation; (b) using the balance sheet of multilateral development banks more effectively through innovative instruments and guarantees; and (c) developing an adequate regulatory environment on the finance side, especially with regard to fixed-income and institutional investors, to match funds with needs.

91. Mr. dos Santos noted that well-developed infrastructure project pipelines would be essential for attracting investment. Political instability, weak institutions and lack of coherence between the project and the political election cycles remained the main challenges. End users must be engaged in projects to act as advocates for project implementation. Projects, in turn, must be investible and sustainable to become more resilient and effectively mitigate investor risk. Mr. Barrett discussed how to address questions of creating a pipeline of projects, building capacity and

activating private sector markets. He also noted a strong call from the United Nations to exchange best practices and expertise. He recognized the leadership, ownership and organizational role that multilateral development banks had to play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

92. Mr. Steffensen called for new and innovative approaches, secure public-private partnerships, the use of high-level technology in infrastructure to achieve environmental objectives, and a strong commitment to climate finance and the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Carter noted the importance of ensuring that attention was paid to low-income and conflict-affected countries. He proposed the following thematic priorities for the next Global Infrastructure Forum: political economy and sustainability considerations; the role and visibility of regional and national development banks; and country programmes on private sector mobilization. Mr. Vivekanandan maintained that, while there was a role for multilateral development banks and the private sector in infrastructure development, national development banks could also play a meaningful role in infrastructure investment.

93. During the interactive dialogue, participants welcomed the Global Infrastructure Forum and encouraged the multilateral development banks to accelerate investment in infrastructure. The importance of building better-quality infrastructure in response to climate change and natural disasters was raised. The need for engaging citizens in project preparation and implementation was also emphasized.

VII. Closing of the forum on financing for development follow-up

94. The forum adopted its procedural report (E/FFDF/2016/3), including the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, which reaffirmed strong commitment to the full and timely implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which built on the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, and recognized that the Action Agenda was an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, supported and complemented it and helped to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions. It also endorsed the conclusions and recommendations in the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force setting up the monitoring framework for the Action Agenda and all means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The document provided further guidance for future sessions of the forum, emphasizing the importance of an early decision on its dates, themes and other organizational matters.

95. Following the adoption of the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations, the Group of 77 and China expressed the view that the 2016 document did not fully meet the mandates of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The European Union expressed the view that, its brevity notwithstanding, the document was a testimony to the common will of Member States to uphold the consensus reached in Addis Ababa and gave guidance on the preparation of future forums.

96. In his closing remarks, the President of the Economic and Social Council thanked all participants for their substantive contributions to the forum and emphasized the importance of the shared sense of ownership, the spirit of cooperation and the willingness to seek win-win solutions at all levels for achieving effective development cooperation and entering a new era for sustainable development.

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Agenda item 11
Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security.

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Report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

[Original: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish]

Introduction

1. This report responds to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision 2011/217, in which the Council invited the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to transmit to ECOSOC every year a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations, and the results achieved by the Committee in the area of food security and nutrition, in accordance with its roles and vision. More information regarding the roles and vision of the Committee can be found in documents A/66/76-E/2011/102 and A/65/73-E/2010/51. The report describes the main outcomes and decisions taken by the Forty-second Session of CFS held in October 2015 and, where relevant, provides updates on follow-up action. The Final Report of the Session is available at http://www.fao.org/3/a-mo943e.pdf. The Forty-third Session of CFS will take place in October 2016.

Main decisions, recommendations and results

Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises

2. The Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises was endorsed at the 42nd Session of CFS. It is intended to guide the development, implementation and monitoring of policies and actions to improve food security and nutrition in protracted crisis situations. The Framework for Action describes how to address critical food insecurity and undernutrition manifestations and build resilience in protracted crises in a way that is adapted to the specific challenges of these situations, that avoids exacerbating underlying causes and, where possible, contributes to resolving them.

3. CFS recommended actions along the following principles:

- Meet immediate humanitarian needs and build resilient livelihoods;
- Focus on nutritional needs;
- Reach affected populations;
- Protect those affected by or at risk of protracted crises;
- Empower women and girls, promote gender equality and encourage gender sensitivity;
- Ensure and support comprehensive evidence-based analyses;
- Strengthen country ownership, participation, coordination and stakeholder buy-in, and accountability;
- Promote effective financing;
- Contribute to peacebuilding through food security and nutrition;
- Manage natural resources sustainably and reduce disaster risks;
- Promote effective national and local governance.

4. The Committee requested that the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, consider, endorse and ensure the wide dissemination of the Framework for Action to all relevant United Nations Organizations and Agencies.

Water for Food Security and Nutrition

5. The High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) presented in 2015 a report on *Water for Food Security and Nutrition*. The report was used as the basis for a policy discussion at the Forty-second Session of CFS held in October 2015. Policy recommendations resulting from the discussions and endorsed by the Plenary are provided in the Final Report of CFS 42.

6. As a result of the policy discussions on *Water for Food Security and Nutrition*, the Committee recalled the intrinsic linkages between water and food security and nutrition. It stressed the key role of water in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and encouraged all relevant stakeholders to address the challenges related to water's contribution to food security and nutrition through both ecosystem and people-centred approaches.

7. CFS recommended actions by appropriate stakeholders along the following lines:

- Promote conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems for the continued availability, quality and reliability of water for food security and nutrition;
- Improve coherence between water and food security and nutrition related policies, strategies and plans;
- Achieve equal access to water for all, prioritize the most vulnerable and marginalized at all ages and empower women and youth;
- Improve the efficiency and diversity of water use and the productivity of agricultural systems for food security and nutrition;
- Manage risk and increase resilience to water variability for food security and nutrition;
- Develop and share knowledge, technologies and tools related to water for food security and nutrition;
- Foster inclusive and effective collaboration and national and local governance on water for food security and nutrition;
- Promote the full and meaningful implementation of international human rights obligations and instruments as they relate to water for food security and nutrition.

Forthcoming work of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE)

8. The HLPE will present a report in July 2016 on *Sustainable Agricultural Development for Food Security and Nutrition, Including the Role of Livestock* and has been requested to present reports in 2017 on *Nutrition and Food Systems* and on *Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition*. These reports will provide the evidence base to inform future policy convergence work of the Committee.

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Connecting Smallholders to Markets

9. The Committee was informed of the outcomes of the High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets which brought together a wide range of stakeholders to discuss policy implications, challenges and lessons learned of how farmers have created beneficial and sustainable linkages to markets. It led to the identification of priority areas such as supporting smallholders' collective action, providing key financial and non-financial services, developing partnerships between smallholders and other private sector actors, and the role of public investment and policy frameworks.

10. It was decided that these outcomes should be further analysed with a view to preparing a set of recommendations and practices on this matter for endorsement by the CFS Plenary at its Forty-third Session in 2016.

Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW)

11. The Committee adopted its Multi-Year Programme of Work for the biennium 2016-2017. It has also approved a revised guidance note outlining the criteria and process for the selection of CFS activities.

12. The work of CFS over 2016-17 is outlined below. In addition, CFS will hold forums on Urbanization, Rural Transformation and Implications for Food Security and Nutrition in 2016 and on Women's Empowerment in the Context of Food Security and Nutrition in 2017.

CFS and its role in advancing nutrition

13. At the Forty-second Session of the Committee, all CFS constituencies confirmed their support for CFS to play a more important role in advancing nutrition within its mandate, adding value to existing work and fostering synergies.

14. CFS stakeholders are currently preparing a proposal highlighting a clear vision for CFS role in nutrition and identifying areas where it can play a major role to be presented at the 43rd Session of the Committee in October 2016. CFS is expected to make a significant contribution to ongoing efforts to fight malnutrition, including the implementation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) recommendations, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decade for Action on Nutrition.

CFS engagement with Sustainable Development Goals

15. CFS stakeholders shared views at the Forty-second Session of the Committee on the role of CFS in engaging with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They called for CFS to put the achievement of the SDGs at the centre of its work, recognizing that CFS offers a unique opportunity to share lessons learned, good practices, report on progress made and address emerging challenges or policy gaps on food security and nutrition. It was also recalled that implementing existing CFS policy instruments can make an important contribution to advancing on Goal 2 and other related goals and targets.

16. In this context, a consultative process is underway on how the Committee, building on its global, multi-stakeholder and evidence-based nature, could contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and support global thematic

reviews on progress related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). A proposal will be presented for approval at CFS' 43rd Session in October 2016.

Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF)

17. The Committee endorsed the Fourth Version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition (GSF 2015) which includes the policy recommendations for *Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture for Food Security and Nutrition* and *Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems* that were endorsed at CFS 41 in 2014 as well as the statistical figures included in the FAO State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) 2014.

18. It was also decided that a targeted review of the GSF be carried out in order to incorporate references to major new international developments in the area of food security and nutrition and streamline the content of the chapter which includes CFS policy recommendations. This process will be an opportunity to consider how to promote, use and disseminate the GSF among stakeholders more effectively. A consultative process, involving all interested stakeholders, is underway, and is expected to result in an updated GSF for endorsement by the Forty-fourth Session of CFS in 2017.

Monitoring CFS Decisions and Recommendations

19. **The Committee considered the results of the CFS Effectiveness Survey and recognized that it provided an initial snapshot of the situation which enables some general conclusions on how CFS is performing towards the vision defined in the CFS Reform. The survey showed overall CFS was ranked positively on its relevance, the evidence base supporting its work and the *potential* of its policy products to have an impact. The ability of CFS to be inclusive and participatory was perceived differently across different groups of respondents. The results show that more emphasis should be put on coordination with other relevant initiatives, in particular at the regional level, the actual impact of CFS products, and the communication of CFS products and its multi-stakeholder model.**

20. **The Committee continued to encourage CFS stakeholders to share their experiences and good practices concerning the implementation of CFS decisions and recommendations at national, regional and global levels, as a contribution to CFS monitoring. Terms of reference are being developed to provide guidance to interested stakeholders on sharing their lessons and good practices. They will be presented for adoption at CFS 43 in October 2016. These Terms of reference will specifically serve as a framework for the organization of global thematic events within CFS plenary sessions to take stock of the use and application of CFS products. In this context, the Committee agreed that a global thematic event on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VG GT) be held, four years after their adoption, at the Forty-third Session of CFS.**

Evaluation of CFS Effectiveness

21. **The Committee requested that an external evaluation be carried out in 2016 to assess the effectiveness of CFS since its reform in 2009, as endorsed at its Fortieth Session within the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2014-2015. The purpose is to assess the extent to which CFS performing its roles, its efficiency, effectiveness and impact of its work. It will review CFS decision-making and planning processes to analyse how they influence the results achieved by the Committee. It should result in recommendations to enable CFS to respond effectively to emerging challenges, to strengthen its comparative advantage and leadership as a multi-stakeholder body in improving global food security and nutrition. The evaluation will also generate learning on multi-stakeholder collaboration.**

Report of the 42nd Session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 12-15 October 2015)

The full Final Report of the Forty-second Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, from 12 to 15 October 2015, can be found at the following link: http://www.fao.org/3/a-mo943e.pdf.

The Report includes Appendix A — Agenda of the Session; Appendix B — Membership of the Committee; and Appendix C — List of Documents.